Number of poor houses and the inmates thereof.

415. **Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of poor houses in the State and the inmates in each?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—There is one poor house at Ernakulam and the number of inmates of it on 21st Vrischigam 1111 was 14.

Visha Vaidyasala—Ampazhakad—encouragement of.

416. **Mr. P. Govinda Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) have the Government received representations from the people of Ampazhakad and the neighbouring places in the Adur Constituency praying for their help to the free Visha Vaidyasala conducted at Ampazhakad by one Mr. V. T. Kunjikuru;

(b) will they consider the question of encouraging this most useful institution by taking it over as a Government Vaidyasala or by giving an adequate grant to the institution;

(c) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, are Government aware that one Mr. V. T. Kunjikuru is conducting a free Visha Vaidyasala at Ampazhakad and will Government kindly consider the question of encouraging the institution as suggested in (b)?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) The question of taking over the institution as a Government Vaidyasala cannot be considered now. The idea of the Government in the matter of development of Visha Vaidyam is not to open new Visha Vaidyasalas but to get trained a sufficient number of hands from the different part of the State and make them fit for treating poison cases in their respective localities. The Government encourage them by giving them free supply of medicines and reference books. The Vishavaidyan referred to in the question is a trained hand and he is being given free supply of medicines, etc., now as is given to other trained hands. This is what the Government can do now.

(c) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (b) above.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon.—May I know, Sir, whether there

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